

U.S./Malian Cooperation

Commercial and Economic Relations

- U.S. exports to Mali in 2006 totaled \$43 million. Principal exports to Mali are power-generating equipment, industrial spare parts (mainly cotton-ginning equipment), chemicals/pharmaceuticals, vehicles, used clothing, textiles, flour, and sugar.
- U.S. imports from Mali in 2006 reached \$8 million and included hides and skins, gold, textiles, and handicrafts.
- American business interests in Mali include:
 - Salt Lake City-based Savage, through its subsidiary Canadian CANAC, is the largest U.S. investor in Mali, owning 51 percent of the railroad company Transrail.
 - Baton Rouge-based Schaffer Group is the second-largest private investor in the USD 120 million Société Sucrière de Markala sugar refinery project.
 - The Jeep-Chrysler dealership is 100% American owned. The dealership covers several countries in West Africa.
 - Nouvelles Brasseries de Bamako, franchise of the Atlanta-based Monarch Beverages International.
 - Manutention Africaine, distributor of caterpillar Equipment (earth moving, power production).
 - Other U.S. business interests in Mali include DHL-Mali, ATS (American Express), Bramali / Coca Cola bottling, La Malienne de l'Automobile (Hertz-Rent-a-Car), Western Union service providers, and GMI-Audit (Price Waterhouse Coppers & Lybrand).

Grant Programs

The U.S. Department of State has a variety of grant programs aimed at supporting Malian associations and individuals in their work to develop Mali.

➤ Ambassador's Special Self-Help fund

This fund was designed to assist small-scale development projects that improve basic socioeconomic conditions at the grassroots level. In 2006, \$85,000 in Self-help funds was provided to Malians for projects as diverse as gardening, well construction, animal husbandry, school rehabilitation, and cereal banks.

➤ Democracy and Human Rights Fund

The Democracy and Human Rights fund finances small short term, high impact activities which support democratic institutions, political pluralism, and the protection and advocacy of human rights in African countries. In 2006, \$80,000 was provided to Malian associations and individuals for projects to promote civil rights, civil participation, and women's rights.

➤ Ambassador's Cultural Preservation Fund

The United States government is committed to help preserving the cultural heritage of Mali, particularly in helping to raise awareness of the tremendous importance of Mali's intellectual

contribution to the heritage of Islam and of the ongoing threat to the surviving body of manuscripts and ancient Malian artifacts. This commitment is embodied in over \$50,000 in funding of projects aimed at preserving Islamic manuscripts in Djenné and Timbuktu and in excavating the site of Kankou Moussa's mosque in Gao. This work is in addition to our partnership in the implementation of our bilateral agreement with the government of Mali on prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer overseas of Malian cultural property.

Security Cooperation

Mali is an important ally in the global war against terrorism. Over the past four years, the Diplomatic Security branch of the U.S. Department of State sponsored a series of anti-terrorism training courses for Malian security officials. Over two hundred officials have participated in courses, conducted both here in Mali and in the U.S. The courses included training in such areas as explosives incident countermeasures, major case management, airport security and anti-terrorism tactics and strategy.

Humanitarian Assistance

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Humanitarian Assistance Program has contributed over \$3 million to Mali since 1999. These programs were undertaken in coordination with other USG programs and numerous Malian NGOs. Examples of completed and ongoing projects include:

- The flow of water is a vital human necessity. Well projects in Mali have accounted for over \$1,200,000 worth of construction in some of the most remote regions in Mali. In 2006, the HA Program constructed four solar wells in northern Mali. The locations included Almoustarat, Tabit, Tabenkort and Taoudenni. Total costs of those four deep wells was over \$600,000.
- Over \$1,000,000 in Humanitarian Assistance funds has been spent since 2000 on the construction of schools in Mali. These school projects were undertaken in cooperation with the local communities. For example, in 2003, the U.S. Department of Defense built the Likraker school, north of Timbuktu while the local village community raised the money to pay for the teachers.
- The U.S. Department of Defense funded the refurbishment and expansion of nine health clinics in cooperation with the Malian Health Ministry at a cost of over \$500,000. These health clinics provide the required space for proper medical care and treatment of the local civilian population.
- The Humanitarian Assistance Excess Property Program allows the shipment of privately donated humanitarian cargo via U.S. military transportation on a space-available basis. Since 1999, over \$500,000 worth of school supplies, hospital equipment and supplies, four water trucks with trailers, four utility vehicles and one ambulance have been provided to Mali under this program.
- In 2004, the U.S. Department of Defense constructed an HIV/AIDS center in Kati. The center provides patients with confidential testing and patient advisory services concerning HIV/AIDS. The facility will also provide AIDS prevention education. Total funding provided: \$48,000.

Military Cooperation

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Malian Ministry of Defense cooperate in a variety of areas.

- Mali is an active participant in the U.S. Department of Defense International Military Education and Training (IMET) program. Training includes officer development courses, professional schools and technical training.
- The U.S. Department of Defense and Mali improve counter-terrorism (CT) readiness through bilateral training exercises and joint combined exchange training events which improve the skills of both U.S. and Malian soldiers. Mali and the U.S. coordinate regional military and civilian CT initiatives under the auspices of the Trans-Sahara Counter-terrorism Partnership.
- The U.S. Department of State provided the resources to train three Malian units in peacekeeping operations as part of the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance program. Mali has a long history of participating in peacekeeping efforts, particularly on the African continent.

Cultural and Educational Exchanges

Mali is an active partner in the full range of U.S. Government cultural and exchange activities, including:

- The Fulbright program is the flagship international education program sponsored by the United States government. It provides grants for undergraduate and graduate students, scholars and professionals, teachers and academics from the United States and other countries. Under the auspices of the Fulbright program, one American lecturer and three American student researchers are working in Mali this academic year, and eight Malian students are studying in the United States.
- The International Visitor Program brings participants from around the world to the United States each year to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience the culture and diversity of the United States. Our International Visitors program is sending ten Malian International Visitors to the United States during this fiscal year on programs as diverse as the Role of Religion in Civil Society, Women and Law, and Administration of Justice.
- One Malian professional is currently participating in the Humphrey Fellowship program, a competitive scholarship for mid-level professionals from around the world who have shown a demonstrated commitment to public service in both the private and public sectors. They spend a year in the U.S. engaged in study and professional experiences in a variety of fields, including public administration, law and human rights, finance and banking, educational planning, and many more. Returned Malian Humphrey Fellows have created an association that enables them to remain in touch and engaged on issues relating to their work in the United States.
- This year is the first year that Malian high school students have been eligible to participate in the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to provide scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year in the U.S. This year, five Malian

high school students have been selected to go as high school exchange students to the United States for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

- Cultural exchange is an important part of Malian-American relations, both in terms of public and private partnerships. Thanks to cooperation between the U.S. Department of State and private American organizations, the U.S. Embassy in Mali was pleased to participate in a variety of cultural exchange programs during 2006 – 2007, to include:

- In October 2006, two American jazz musicians, Steve Bloom and Miriam Sullivan, conducted workshops for Malian students at the National Institute for the Arts (INA) and the Malian Conservatory of Music. Following their return to the United States, Steven Bloom worked with American partners to send 20 acoustic guitars to the music students at INA.

- In December 2006, American musician Terrance Simien, a Zydeco player from New Orleans, visited Mali with his band, to work with high school students in Bamako and Segou and to perform in free public concerts. During this same time and as part of the same U.S. Government-funded program, Malian singer Oumou Sangare and her band performed and visited high schools in New York City. The grand finale of both visits was a distance learning event during which simultaneous concerts by Simien and Sangare was broadcast via satellite video conference to audiences of over 500 New York City public school students at Carnegie Hall in New York City and nearly 300 Malian students at the Centre Culturel Français in Bamako.

- The U.S. Embassy is pleased to be an active partner in the teaching of the English language throughout the country. Efforts in this regard include:

- In collaboration with the Malian Inspectorate of English of the Ministry of National Education, US Embassy Bamako has sponsored a regional English Language Teaching workshop in Mali annually since 1987. In 2007, the workshop was held from February 5 – 9 for 60 secondary, junior school teachers, and pedagogic advisers from the regions of Gao and Kidal.

- The Public Affairs section provided close to \$30,000 in furniture, furnishings, and grant money to the Malian Association of Teachers of English (MATE) to help create an English-language training center in Bamako.

- The U.S. Embassy hosted two week seminars on English language training for English teachers from Malian medersas. These seminars, which occurred in 2005 and 2006, featured American specialists who presented numerous techniques for teaching English to Malian students, including methods of instruction that ranged from activities suitable to resource-poor regions to useful Internet sites with search engines to help deepen understanding of the English language and American society.

- Under the U.S. State Department's Shared Future program, the U.S Embassy in Bamako distributed over 21,000 Education kits (backpacks and school supplies) to school children in all eight regions of Mali. The Embassy is currently in the process of donating 2000 sewing machines to associations throughout Mali.

Consular Affairs

The Consular Section of the United States Embassy in Bamako, Mali is committed to providing clients consular services respectfully, efficiently, and in accordance with U.S. law. The Section provides the full range of consular services, including American citizen services, non-immigrant visas, as well as asylee and refugee processing. We continue to work to facilitate travel of Malian citizens to the United State, processing over 8000 non-immigrant visa applications each year. We are constantly striving to make our services more accessible to our customer, a fact illustrated by the following recent initiatives:

- To ensure a more transparent appointment request system, the Consular Section worked with a local telemarketing company to implement a user-pays Consular Information and Appointment system. The system allows consular clients to speak to a live operator five days a week to obtain consular information or make non-immigrant visa appointments.
- The Section implemented "Talk to the Consuls" hours twice a week during which clients can discuss particular questions with the Embassy's two consular officers.
- To introduce dual national children to elements of U.S. society and culture, the Consular Section holds "Patriotic Parties" for American children with non-U.S. citizen parents. In addition to providing civic lessons to the children, consular officers meet with the parents and guardians to better inform them of their rights and responsibilities.

Millennium Challenge Corporation

On November 13, 2006 the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Government of Mali signed a Compact aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth, through a five year \$460.8 million program. The Program intends to support the development of key infrastructure and policy reform for productive sectors, by addressing the country's constraints to growth and capitalizing on two of Mali's major assets, the Bamako-Sénou International Airport the gateway for regional and international trade and the Niger River Delta for irrigated agriculture. These investments will create a platform for increased production and productivity of agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as expand Mali's access to markets and trade.

- Bamako-Sénou Airport Improvement Project (estimated \$89.6 million)

The Airport Project is focused on improving Mali's regional and international connections. Mali relies on the Airport for transportation of passengers and goods to and from national, regional, and international destinations. .

- Industrial Park Project (estimated \$94.3 million)

The Industrial Park Project will offer Mali serviced industrial and commercial land under modern management for the first time, with ready access by road or plane (and within 100 km of rail and river links) to growing regional and international markets. Reliable provision of utility services, including electricity, water, and wastewater, will increase business productivity and investment facilitation services will help free up investment capital and boost the creation of new enterprises.

- Alatona Irrigation Project (estimated \$234.6 million)

The Alatona Project is focused on modernizing irrigated production systems and mitigating the uncertainty from subsistence rain-fed agriculture. It seeks to develop 16,000 hectares of newly irrigated lands, representing an almost 20% increase of "drought-proof" cropland and a 7%

increase of the country's total stock of fully or partially irrigated land. It also focuses on consolidating and enhancing the agriculture sector reform process. The Alatona Project will build on this progress by ensuring physical expansion of the system and introducing innovative agricultural, land tenure, and water management practices, as well as policy and organizational reforms aimed at realizing the Office du Niger's ("ON") potential to serve as an engine of rural growth for Mali.

- Additional funds have been provided for program management and oversight (\$37.4 million) and monitoring and evaluation (\$4.9 million)
- (For further information, please visit [/www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov))

USAID Mali

The USAID mission in Mali uses funds from the American people to increase Malians' incomes and well-being, improve health and education standards, and provide tools to govern effectively and transparently. USAID Mali has five main programs: high impact health services, improved quality of basic education, shared democratic governance through decentralization, accelerated economic growth, and communications for development.

- Improving health services (\$15,250,000 in FY06)

Malaria is the number one killer of children in Mali. USAID promotes use of insecticide treated bednets, the most cost-effective way to reduce malaria, making nearly half a million available since the start of the program. USAID funding also expands access to HIV/AIDS prevention and testing services, further consolidates HIV/AIDS surveillance activities, reduces vitamin A and iron deficiency, increases immunization coverage, prevents and treats diarrheal diseases, and expands access to family planning, and reproductive health services.

- Increasing the quality of basic education (\$4,298,000 in FY06)

Mali's primary school enrollment rate is among the lowest in the world, particularly for girls. Quality of education is so low that only half of Malian students have learned to read by the end of Grade 6. To address these problems, USAID works to improve the quality of basic education in over 900 public, community-owned, and Islamic (*medersa*) primary schools. Through President Bush's Africa Education Initiative, USAID provides school-based and distance teacher training to over 5,500 teachers. USAID has developed radio-based teacher training, including Interactive Radio Instruction broadcast directly into primary school classrooms, which benefits over 100,000 students. USAID works to mobilize communities to improve their local schools by providing adult literacy training to over 6,000 adult learners and supporting capacity-development activities for 700 School Management Committees. To date, this has resulted in the implementation of over 11,000 School Improvement Projects. In the northern regions of Mali, USAID uses Africa Education Initiative resources to fund scholarships for approximately 6,000 disadvantaged girl students each year.

- Strengthening democracy (\$2,920,000 in FY06)

Since holding its first democratic election in 1992, Mali has become one of the most enlightened democracies in all of Africa. USAID's democracy and governance program promotes the participation of various groups in the democratic process; provides local communities with the

skills to administer their own financial systems; develops policies that support the success of decentralized government; and increases women's role in decision-making. Women were significantly represented on the 2004 ballot for the first time in history, and in the last two years the number of elected female leaders has increased by 200 percent. With USAID support, 24 targeted rural municipalities identified major governance issues and developed realistic strategies to address them.

➤ Accelerating economic growth (\$8,790,000 in FY06)

Mali's economy is based largely on agriculture, and has become essentially self-sufficient in food production. USAID programs strengthen agricultural sector growth by targeting export commodities for which Mali has a comparative advantage, such as rice, potato, mango, and animal products. They work to reinforce the Malian private sector by improving the management of agribusinesses and strengthening microfinance institutions. USAID helped increase mango exports to 2,984 metric tons, 14 percent more than the previous year. Four cooperatives working with USAID to develop export capacity saw their combined potato exports increase from 10 metric tons in 2004 to 374 metric tons in 2005.

➤ Improving access to information and communications technology (\$750,000 in FY06)

Mali can boast a fully open press and the largest number of private radio stations in any African country. Access to information is critical to Mali's development; the USAID communications for development program improves the quality of information available on development-related topics and reduces regulatory and policy constraints on information access. Thirty eight USAID-funded telecenters provide information to a potential audience of over 750,000 people and have generated sufficient revenue to cover all of their operating costs. Internet access points are now available in most Malian cities and towns with a population of over 5,000 people. Over 310 radio programs were broadcast on topics concerning health, child trafficking, education, democratic governance, microfinance and trade opportunities, sound environmental practices, women's issues, and other topics.

USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is assisting vulnerable populations in Mali to recover from the severe food and malnutrition crises that affected the northern regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal in 2005. OFDA has provided \$1.5 million to International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) who are working with local partners to help communities rebuild their basic livelihoods, through provision of seeds and livestock, water point repair, inputs for community-based artisanal and agro-pastoral associations, as well as technical assistance to improve production and marketing. In addition, OFDA has provided \$2.9 million to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the INGO Helen Keller International to support national and local-level institutions to address malnutrition in the Sahel, including Mali. Through these programs, OFDA is helping to address current needs, while strengthening capacities at local and national levels to respond to future crises.

Presidential Malaria Initiative

Through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the United States is working in partnership with 15 of the countries most affected by malaria to control and prevent this disease. Announced by President Bush in 2005, this initiative devotes \$1.2 billion over five years to cut malaria-

related deaths by 50 percent in these 15 focus countries in Africa. On December 14, 2006, President Bush designated Mali as a new focus country in the fight against malaria and pledged approximately \$15 million a year through the life of the initiative to support Malian efforts to combat malaria in the country.

The goal of the PMI is to assist in-country malaria control programs to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 target countries in Africa. This goal will be achieved by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups — children under 5 years of age and pregnant women — with proven and effective prevention and treatment control measures. These proven measures include insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs), indoor residual spraying (IRS), intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women, and artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT).

Peace Corps in Mali

Peace Corps Volunteers assist the government of Mali in an effort to address multiple development challenges. Currently, the Peace Corps places its emphasis on sustainable capacity-building projects in the areas of food production, water availability, environmental conservation, micro-enterprise development, and preventive health care, including water sanitation work and HIV/AIDS awareness. In 2006, 141 Peace Corps volunteers worked in regions throughout Mali.

Malaria Research and Training Center/National Institutes of Health

The Malaria Research and Training Center (MRTC) was initiated in 1989 as part of a collaborative effort between the staff of the Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontostomatology (FMPOS) (formerly the ENMP) and the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) with support from the partnership program of the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Health Organizations. Subsequently, significant support has come from USAID, NIH, the MacArthur Foundation, SatelLife, the International Atomic Agency and the Dreyfus Health Foundation.

Total FY2006 funding for this center exceeded \$3 million. The Malaria Research and Training Center fills a number of important roles, to include:

- *Providing an opportunity for Malian scientists to grow and develop in one of the most important research centers in Africa. The MRTC has gone a long way toward proving that given adequate training and sufficient support, African researchers can lead the fight against the diseases in Africa.*
- *Providing a facility for African scientists to demonstrate the feasibility of applying new strategies, particularly vaccines, to fight age-old diseases.*
- *Providing a place where young American students and researchers can experience first hand the challenges and rewards that come from working on diseases in the tropics.*
- *Providing an opportunity for NIH and scientists from collaborating institutions to directly relate their laboratory-based bench researches to the real problems in Africa.*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially began working in Mali in 1995, with USAID child survival funding. CDC has continued to receive funds from USAID Mali to work in partnership with the Ministry of Health strengthening national capacity to develop, implement and evaluate STI/HIV/AIDS operational research and programmatic activities.

CDC's field office in Mali is supported by the Global Aids Program and Division of STD Prevention of the CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention. In country, CDC Mali operates from within the Ministry of Health's CSLS (Cellule de Coordination du Comité Sectoriel de Lutte Contre le SIDA) and from within the STI/HIV laboratory located on the grounds of the INRSP (Institut National de la Recherche en Sante Publique). On a day to day basis CDC, CSLS and INRSP work together to implement national HIV and STI surveillance studies, to develop national resources for monitoring and controlling the quality control of HIV testing and other prevention services, and to identify strategic avenues for providing HIV/STI prevention services, particularly to vulnerable populations.